

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, September 18, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Baddeck, Sunday, September 18th., My dear Mrs. Bell:

It was a real pleasure to receive your letter the other day and know that you were better and improving. I hope when we return we shall find you quite your own old wonderful self again.

I am so sorry about the answer to the "first message over the wires" from Colonial Beach. Alec was from home that day and Elias Marsh carried the telegram in his pocket all day. He forgot about it entirely until I asked him when he remembered and produced it but we were then picnicing at St. Anna some fifteen miles from home and the horses were so tired on our return that I could not send them into town with a reply that night.

We have been on the go all the time picnicing at the end of long drives or steaming up to Whycocomagh. Yesterday we went to Usige Baw a drive of ten miles and a walk of one. Usige Baw are some beautiful Falls over a cliff a hundred feet high. We are quite a party, my uncle and Aunt and their four children, my cousin Lina McCurdy my two children Alec and myself. We shall be left alone very soon however as they all leave on tomorrow's boat and then we hope for a little quiet, restful time before following them. There is much to be done before we leave, building a boat and hen house adding to the stable preparing the ground for next year's planting and deciding on a man to take care of the property through the winter time. We have too many things not to move them and Alec thinks he has found a reliable, capable man to manage things. Next year we must have a woven wire fence around our vegetable garden as the hens and ducks destroyed several heads, of our finest lettuce this summer and we object to that! Alec talks also of buying a head of cows and pasturing them on his Red Head Property so we shall be very busy. Then also he talks of

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taking us all to Margaree to see the Fish Commissioners drag the pools for 2 the salmon. They caught 400 last year and expect an equally large haul this year. Alec and Dr. Marsh says the river is full of them but they are quite unable to catch any.

Mr. Bell should not have announced that Colonial Beach was very cool and then give the state of the thermometer as 70 ? Ours has not reached that height for a long time and yet none of us think it anything but delightful weather. There are a few perfect bright red trees. I think I never saw such rich coloring before.

I wonder if you will have seen Charlie are this reaches you, I am very impatient to see Grace but know that for the present she will very much prefer being alone with Mamma, I know I should.

Goodbye with much love to Mr. Bell and thanks for his half sheet. I trust the children will go and finish that candy sooner or later, It is very nice having the telegraph line up.

Always affectionately, yours, Mabel.